GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:348
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010
UNESCO REPORT ON EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that UNESCO'S Education for All Global Monitoring Report gives very poor grades to India when comes to educating its children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has studied the said Report;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (d) : Sir, the UNESCO's Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2010 is not India specific. However, references have been made to India throughout the Report. As per the report, India ranks 105th in the list with a composite Education for All Development Index (EDI) of 0.775.

The challenges referred to India in the report include malnutrition of children, low levels of enrollment/retention and learning levels of children, discriminatory aspects in the access to education at various levels, equity and quality related aspects, etc. There are also positive references to India viz. the country's ability to counteract the effect of economic downturn on the progress of education, augmentation of budget for the revamped National Literacy Mission, etc.

(e) The Government is continuously engaged in improving the education system both qualitatively and quantitatively through strengthening of existing programmes like 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan', 'Mid Day Meal Scheme', the recast of National Literacy Mission under the name 'Saakshar Bharat', the quintupling of the mission's budget during the XIth Five Year Plan, the enactment of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and other reform measures.